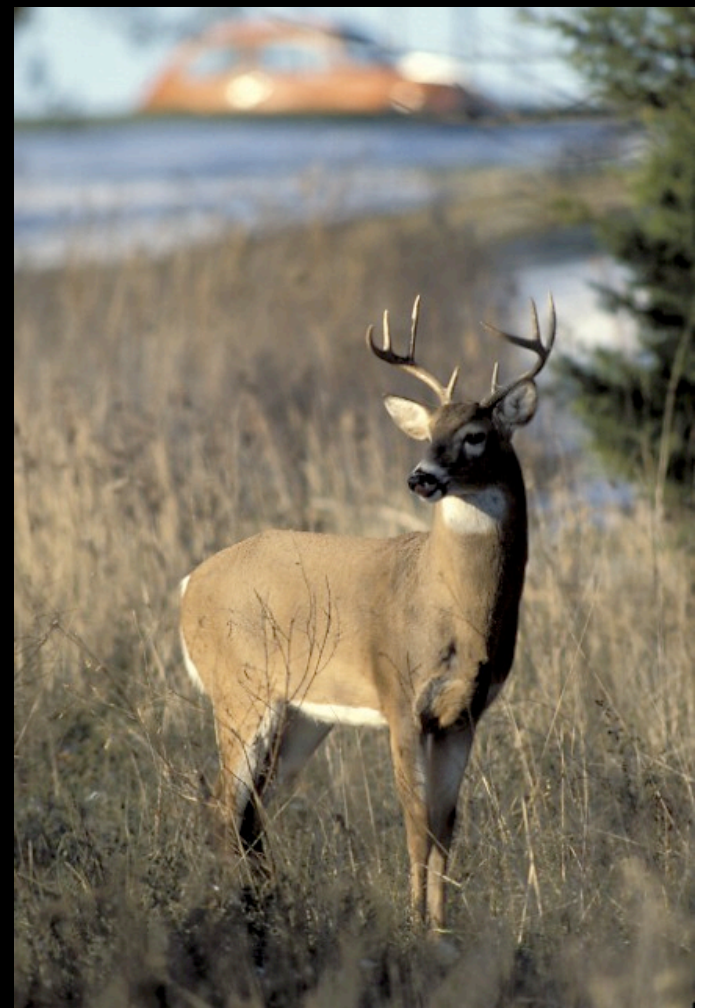


Springfield Urban Deer and You





The History of White-tailed Deer in Missouri





Springfield Urban Deer



Springfield Urban Deer History



- 1986
Construction of Springfield Conservation Nature Center (SCNS).
- 1995
Neighbors concerned about over abundant deer and hunting, SCNC hosts 2 public meetings.
- 1996
City of Springfield drafts a resolution to try to have Missouri Department of Conservation(MDC) Implement statewide urban hunting guidelines.



- 1997
City of Springfield effectively outlaws deer hunting by outlawing use of broad-heads within the City, Director Conley (MDC) requests the City reconsider the new ordinance.
- 1998
Koch Deer study starts.
- 1999
Koch report.

State Vs. Municipal Jurisdiction

Missouri Department of Conservation:

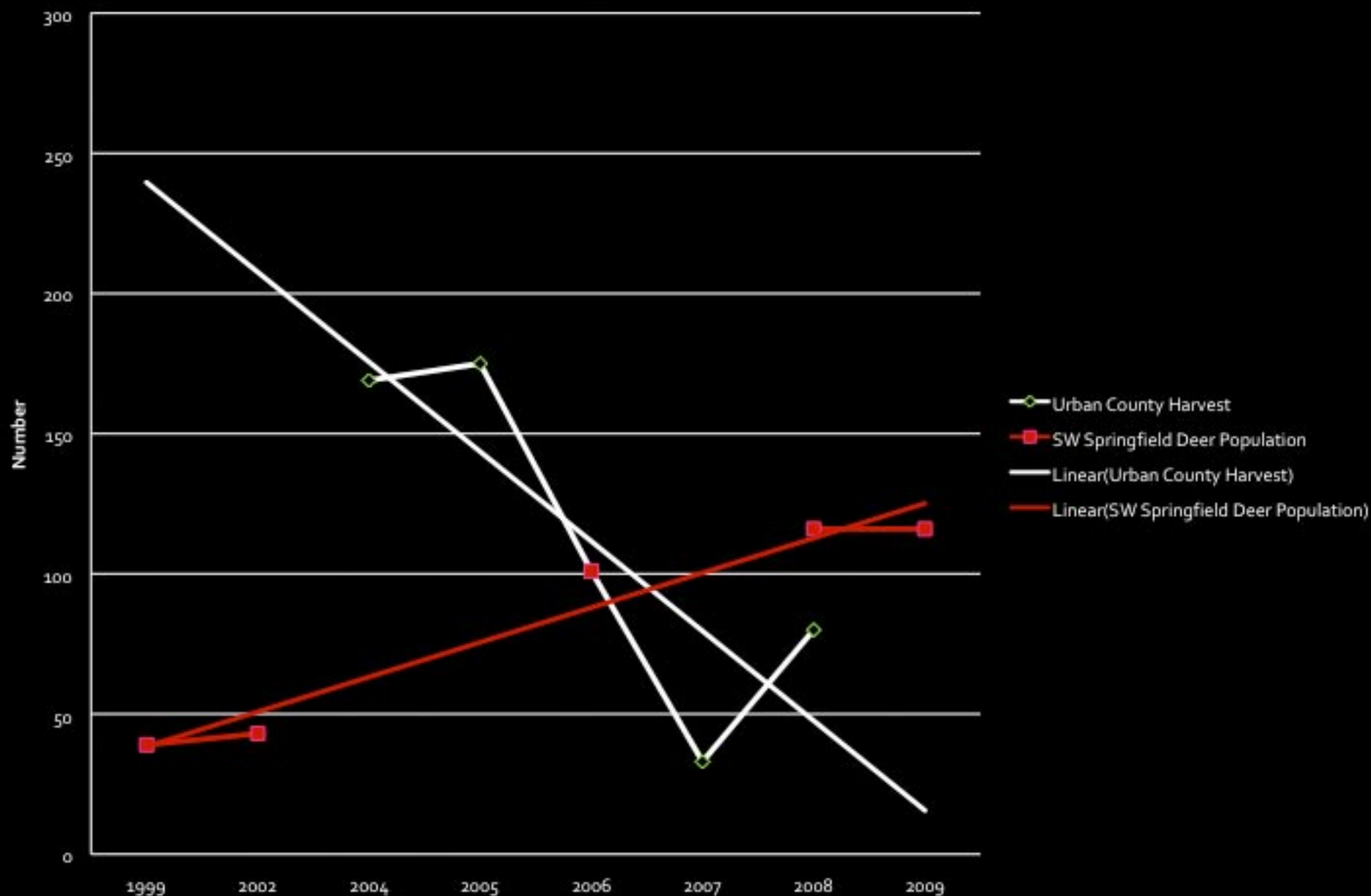
- Constitutional authority to manage fish, forest, and wildlife on a statewide basis
- Sets statewide hunting regulations and harvests.

Municipalities:

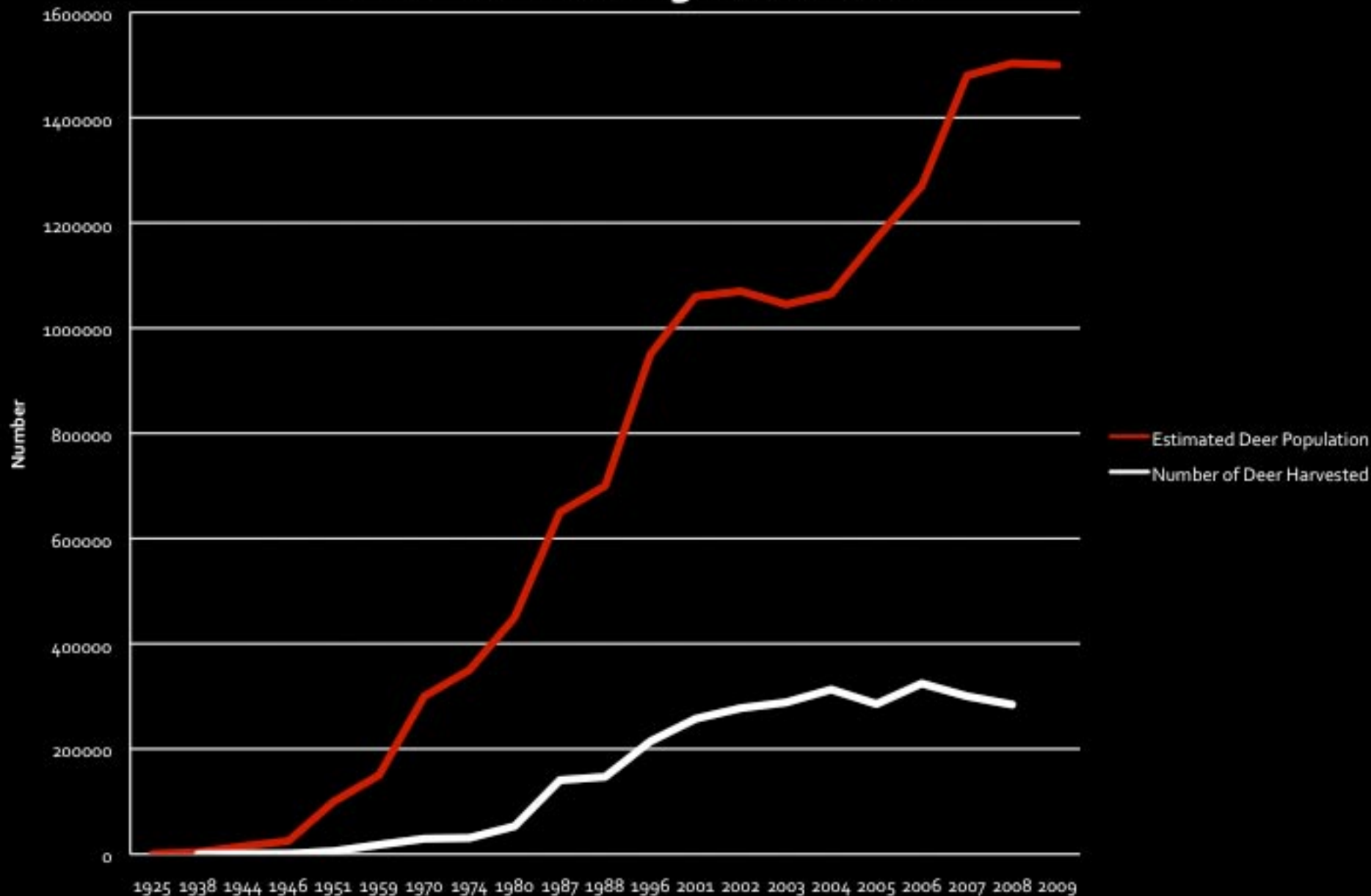
- Authority to create firearms and projectile weapon ordinances

Through their ordinances, Cities limit the State's ability to manage wildlife
by removing important management tools.

Greene County/Springfield Urban County Deer Harvest and Population Trends



History of Deer and Deer Hunting In Missouri



Three Ways the Deer Population May be Limited:

Biological Carrying Capacity-



Executive Summary

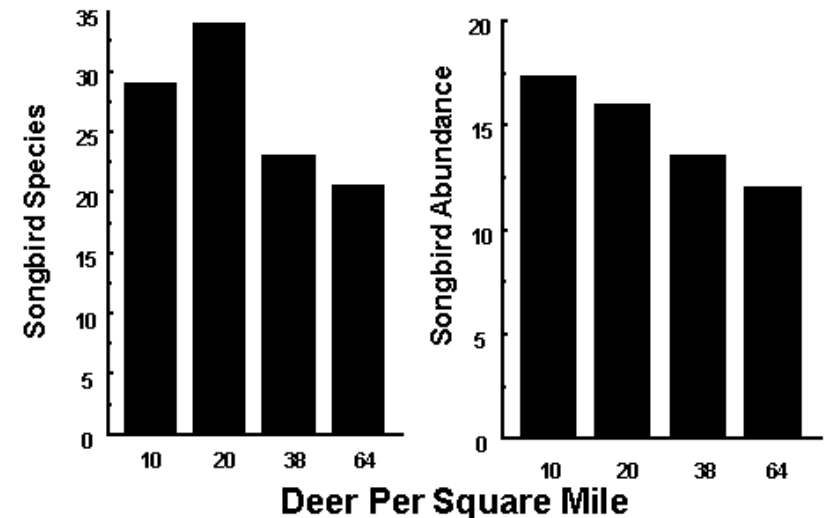
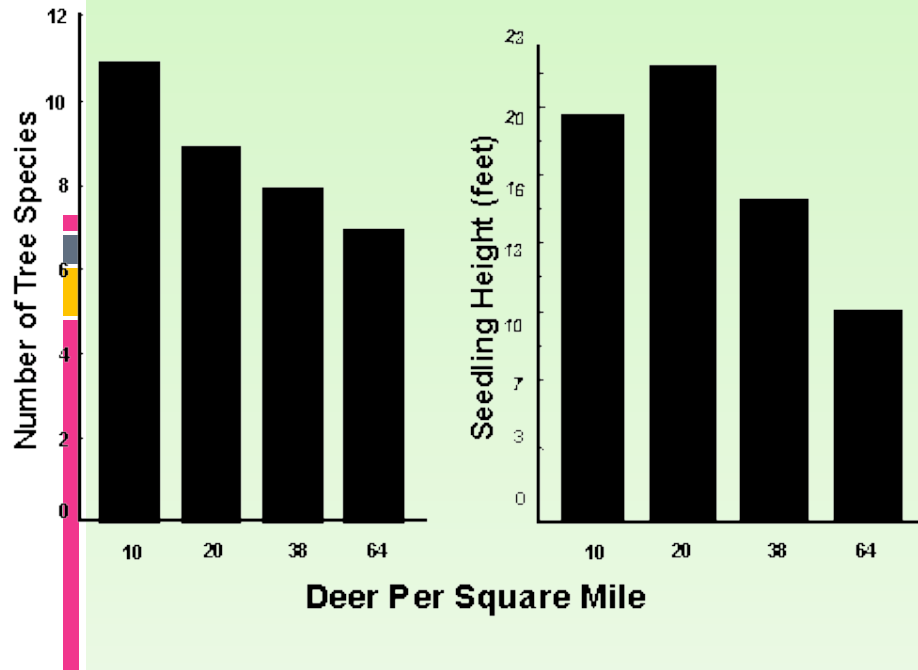
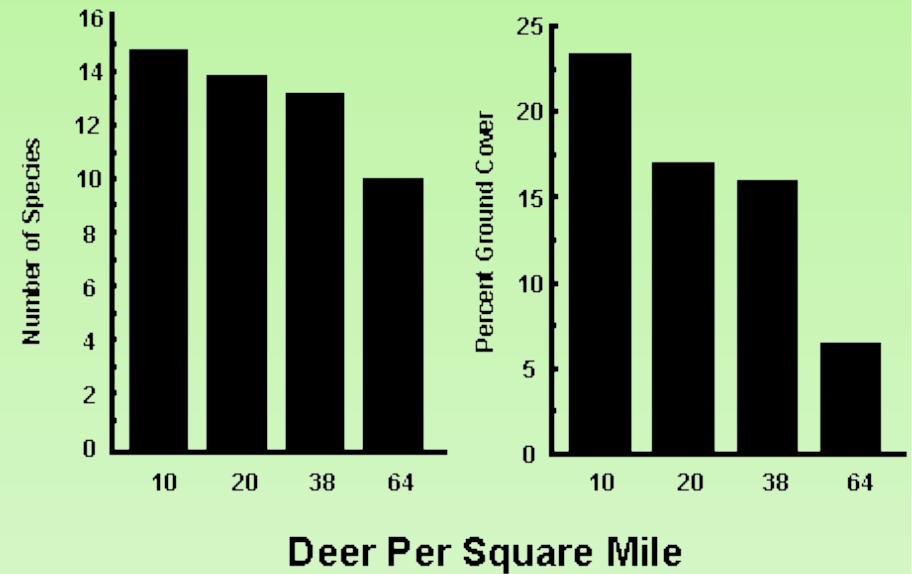
White-tailed deer monitoring was initiated as a pilot study at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Missouri in winter 2005. The index of deer density has declined for a second consecutive year at Wilson's Creek. The smaller deer herd may be the result of disease or starvation. Disease has severely affected local deer populations recently. During the fall of 2005, deer on the battlefield succumbed to hemorrhagic disease (Jordan, 2006), resulting in the loss of over half the population in the study area. Hemorrhagic disease was also detected in Greene county in 2006, with as many as 14 confirmed reports (Beringer, 2007). Overall, the index of deer density has declined 71.3 % since deer monitoring began at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.



Three Ways the Deer Population May be Limited:

- Ecological Carrying Capacity-

Herbs and Shrubs



Three Ways the Deer Population May be Limited:

- Cultural Carrying Capacity-



- ▣ 1999
 - Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) drafts Policy for the management of deer in urban settings.
- ▣ 2000
 - City tries to amend the no broad-head ordinance to exclude land greater than 10 acres - fails.
- ▣ 2003
 - Southwest RCT revisits the urban deer issue and meets with City leaders, MDC eliminates trap and relocate as management option due to high deer mortality.



2004

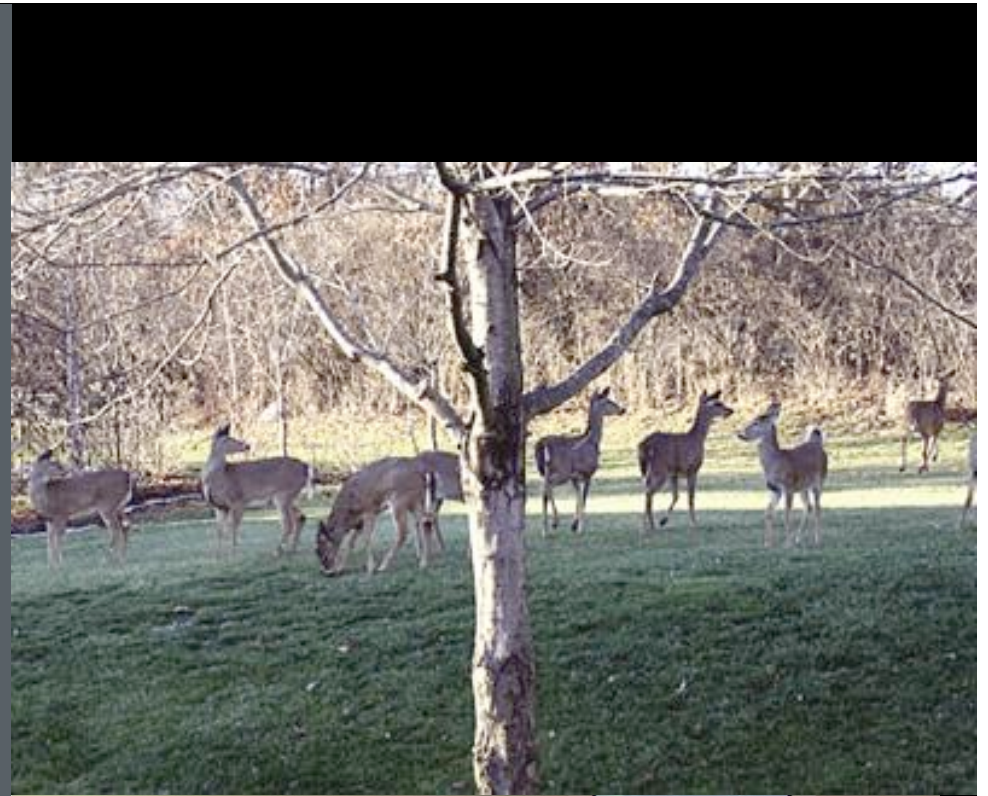
- ❑ MDC Included Greene, Webster and Christian Counties in the Urban portion of the deer season.

2006

- ❑ MDC hires a Temp Urban Wildlife Biologist, and initiates the Urban Deer Action Committee
- ❑ (UDAC)formed in the Springfield Metro Area.


2007

- ❑ The UDAC completes a public perception survey, holds public hearings, and publishes its findings.






Formation of the Urban Deer Action Committee.

- The purpose of the committee is to examine the nature and extent of problems caused by suburban deer and recommend potential solutions.
- 



UDAC was formed in April of 2006


- The UDAC committee researched information on local deer populations, population management, management alternatives, human deer conflicts, deer vehicle collisions (DVC), obtained public opinions (by survey and public forums) and investigated how other communities have begun to address the same issues.
- 



The UDAC

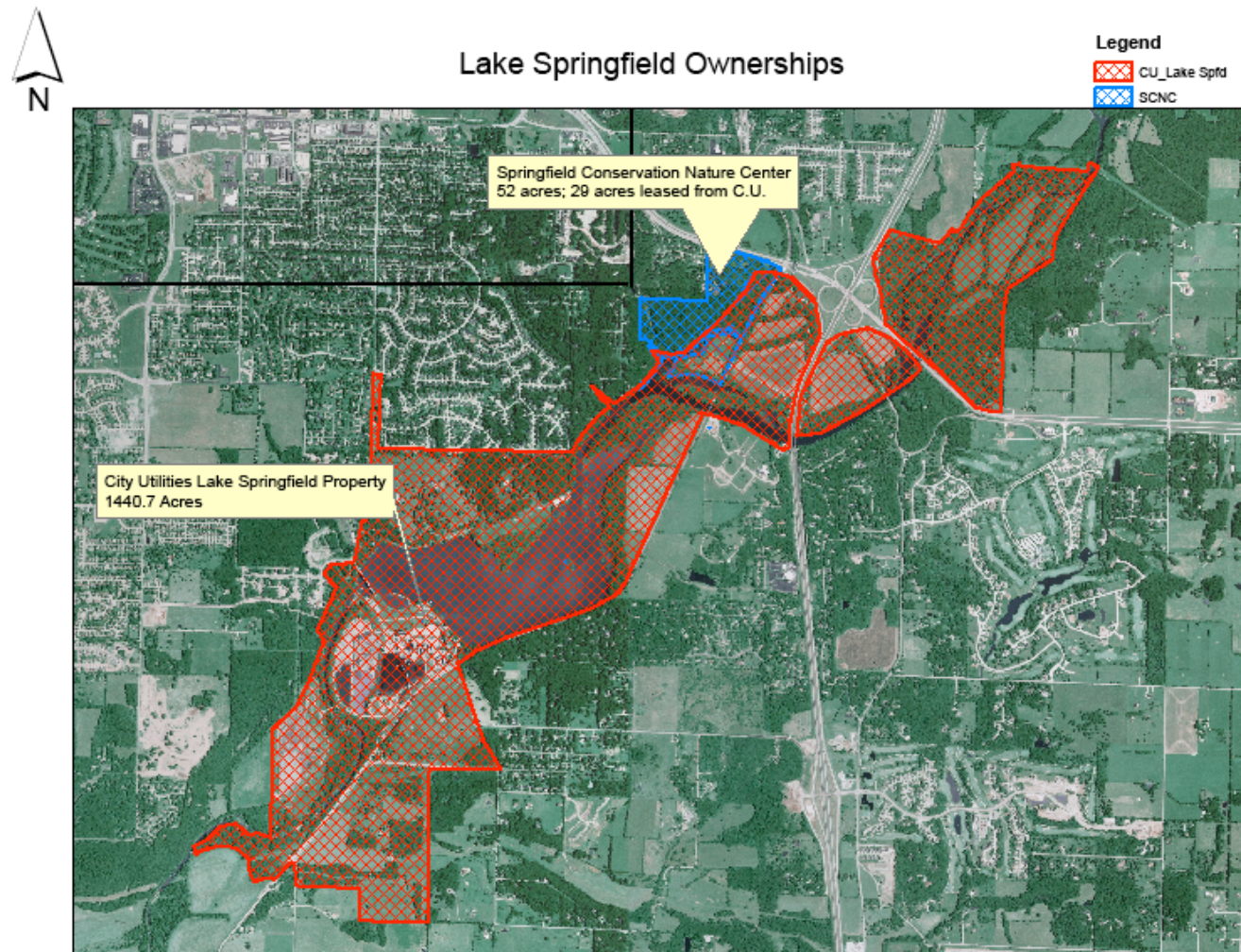
The following municipalities and governmental agencies participated in the Urban Deer Action Committee:

Cities of: Springfield, Republic, Willard, Nixa, Ozark, Battlefield, Rogersville, Strafford.

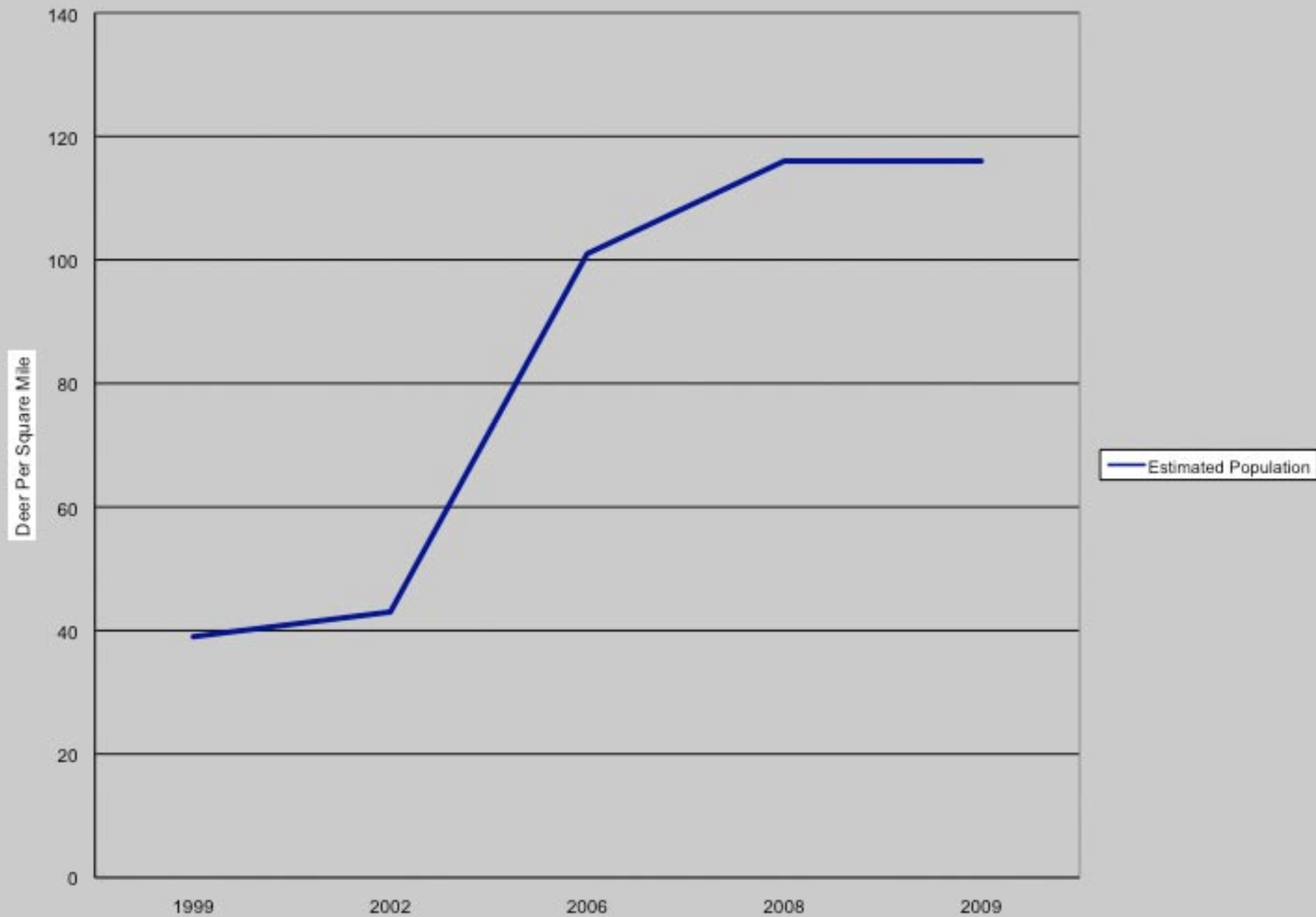


Missouri Department of Conservation,
National Park Service Wilson's Creek National Battlefield,
Greene County Health Department,
Springfield-Greene County Parks,
Greene County Commission,
Springfield City Utilities,
Ozark City Parks.

Urban Deer Surveys 2008



Estimated Deer Population
South Springfield



APPENDIX 1. 2006 South Springfield Spotlight Survey Results.

8/17/2006	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Unclassified	Total Deer Observed	Square Miles	Acres
Missouri Veterans Cemetery	8	11	16	13	48	0.29	182.72
Total	8	11	16	13	48	0.29	182.72

Acres Per Deer 3.81

Deer per Square Mile 168

8/17/2006	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Unclassified	Total Deer Observed	Square Miles	Acres
South Neighborhood	0	1	0	1	2	0.11	69.51
Total	0	1	0	1	2	0.11	69.51

Acres Per Deer 34.75

Deer per Square Mile 18

8/17/2006	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Unclassified	Total Deer Observed	Square Miles	Acres
Greenways Trail	6	7	7	33	53	0.53	342.35
Total	6	7	7	33	53	0.53	342.35

Acres Per Deer 6.46

Deer per Square Mile 99

8/17/2006	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Unclassified	Total Deer Observed	Square Miles	Acres
SCNC	0	2	0	2	4	0.11	70.37
Total	0	2	0	2	4	0.11	70.37

Acres Per Deer 17.59

Deer per Square Mile 36

8/17/2006	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Unclassified	Total Deer Observed	Square Miles	Acres
Living Memorial Park	0	0	0	3	3	0.02	11.11
Total	0	0	0	3	3	0.02	11.11

Acres Per Deer 3.70

Deer per Square Mile 173

8/17/2006	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Unclassified	Total Deer Observed	Square Miles	Acres
CU Lake Springfield Park	1	19	5	6	31	0.34	217.28
Total	1	19	5	6	31	0.34	217.28

Acres Per Deer 7.01

Deer per Square Mile 91

			2/7/2008	2/28/2008	Ave Deer	Square Mil	Acres
MVC			24	14	19	0.23	154.11
Total		0	24	14	19	0.23	154.11

Acres Per Deer 8.11

Deer per Square Mile 83

			2/7/2008	2/28/2008	Ave Deer	Square Mil	Acres
South N-h			1	0	0.5	0.02	13.82
Total	0	0	1	0	0.5	0.02	13.82

Acres Per Deer 27.64

Deer per Square Mile 23

			2/7/2008	2/28/2008	Ave Deer	Square Mil	Acres
Greenway			23	33	28	0.48	303.63
Total	0	0	23	33	28	0.48	303.63

Acres Per Deer 10.84

Deer per Square Mile 58

			2/7/2008	2/28/2008	Ave Deer	Square Mil	Acres
SCNC	0		22.00	20	21	0.04	26.36
Total	0	0	22	20	21	0.04	26.36

Acres Per Deer 1.26

Deer per Square Mile 510

			2/7/2008	2/28/2008	Ave Deer	Square Mil	Acres
Living Mer	0	0	4	7	5.5	0.03	17.09
Total	0	0	4	7	5.5	0.03	17.09

Acres Per Deer 3.11

Deer per Square Mile 206


			2/7/2008	2/28/2008	Ave Deer	Square Mil	Acres
Lake Spfd			56	48	52	0.24	154.91
Total	0	0	56	48	52	0.24	154.91

Acres Per Deer 2.98


Deer per Square Mile 217

2008 Total 126 1.04 **Total acres 791.14**

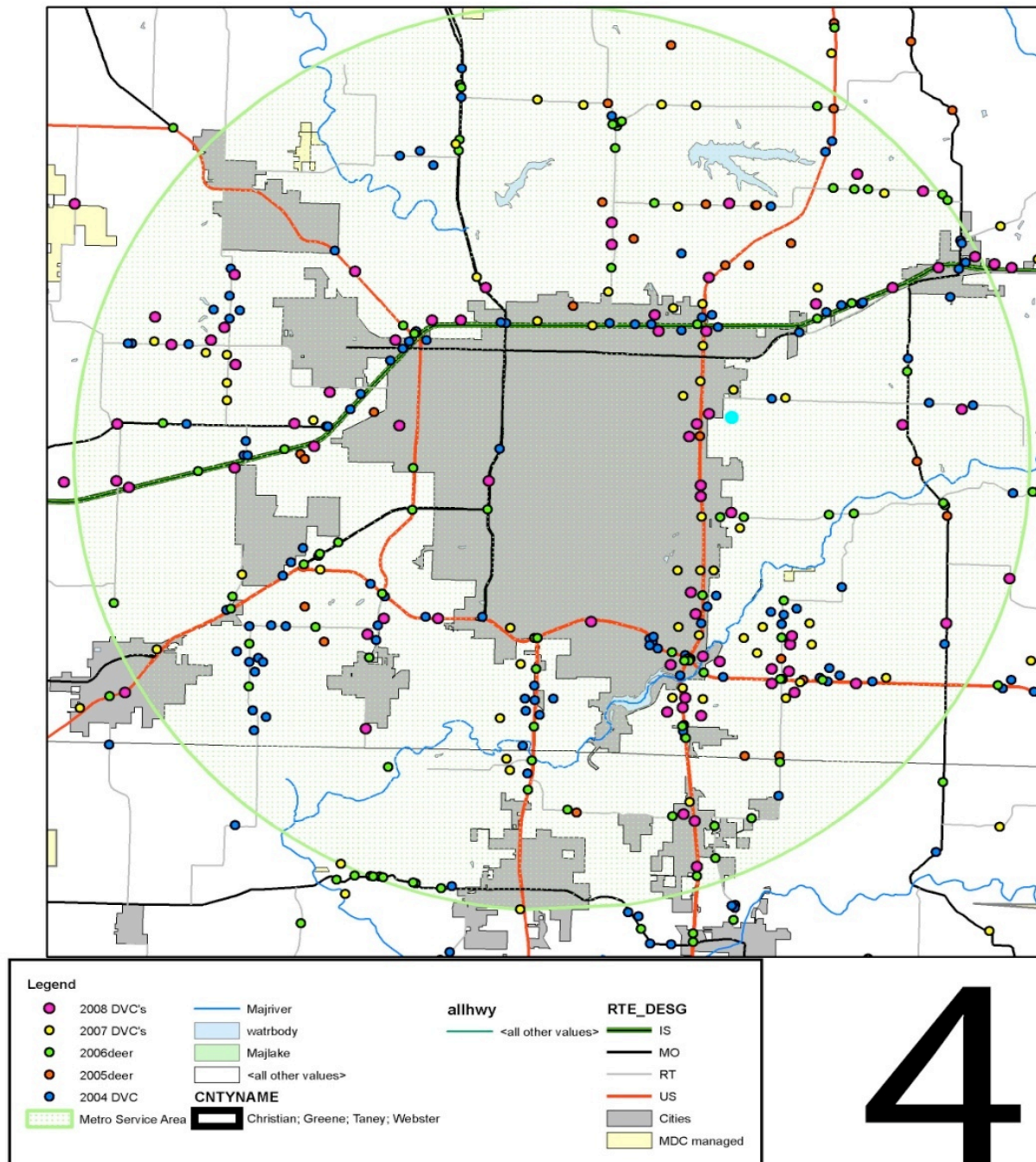
Deer per Sq. Mile 121.22



The most important issues associated with deer overpopulation:

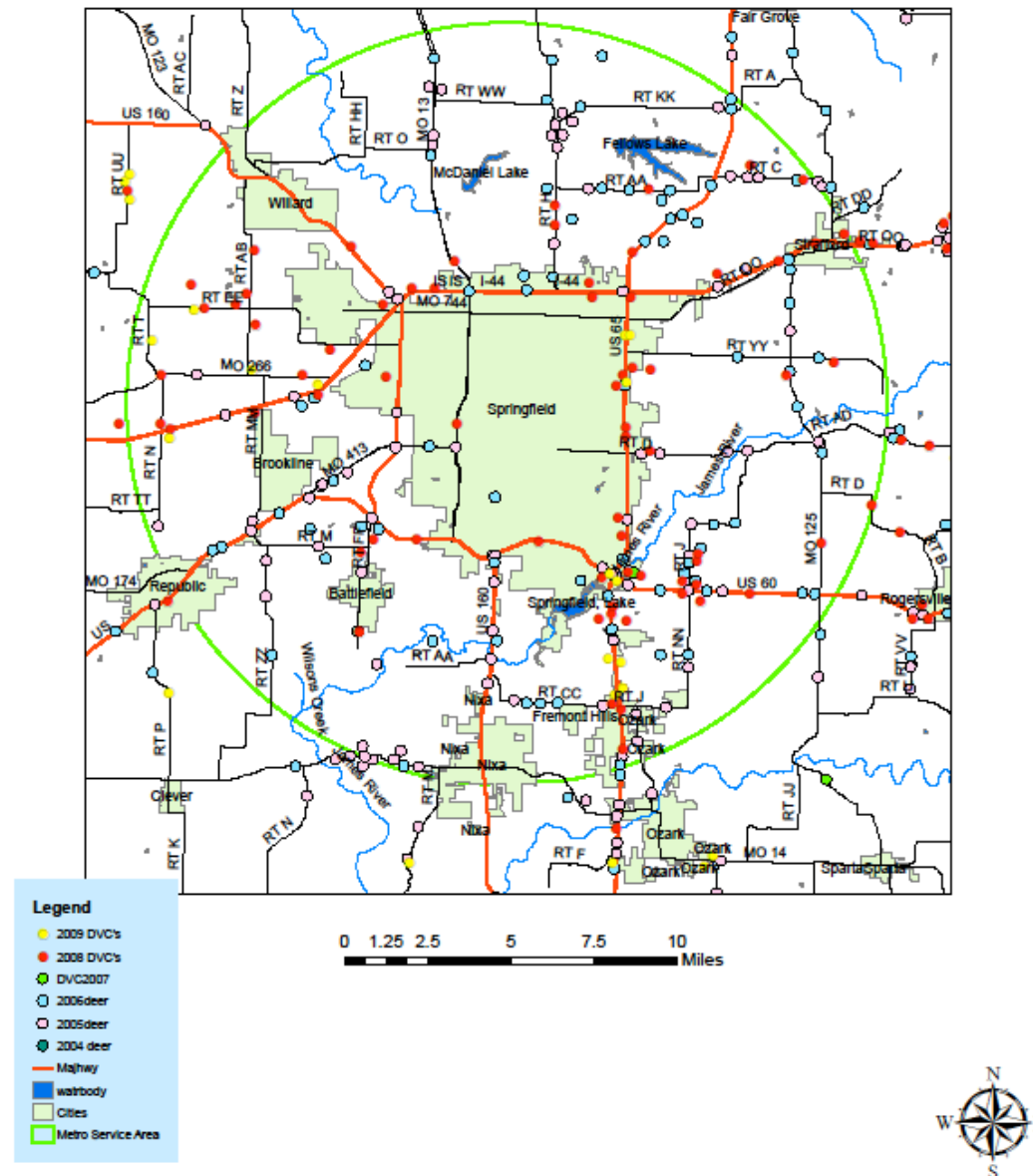
- Increasing number of deer/vehicle collisions.
 - Increasing number of disease outbreaks among deer populations.
 - Increasing number of tick borne diseases in humans.
 - Increasing damage to landscapes and ornamental planting.
- 





- Corridors are the result of the construction of major transportation roadways.
- The parallel configuration of a freeway or expressway and an arterial street creates land areas of high potential development activity, they can also lead to ...

Deer Vehicle Collisions In The Greater Springfield Metro Area 2008-2009 (as of April 15, 2009)



DVC's

DEER/VEHICLE COLLISIONS (DVC)



- October and November are the months with the highest risk for deer/vehicle collisions
- More than 200 people die each year in DVC
- Missouri and Illinois are top 10 states for DVC

Deer Facts & Tips

- Deer often travel at dawn and dusk
- Deer eyes reflect light, so watch for reflections from your headlights
- When you spot a deer, watch for more and slow to a stop
- Assume that a deer will cross your path



Deer Facts & Tips

- Do not swerve to avoid a deer
- If you hit a deer, call 911 to report the accident and wait for assistance

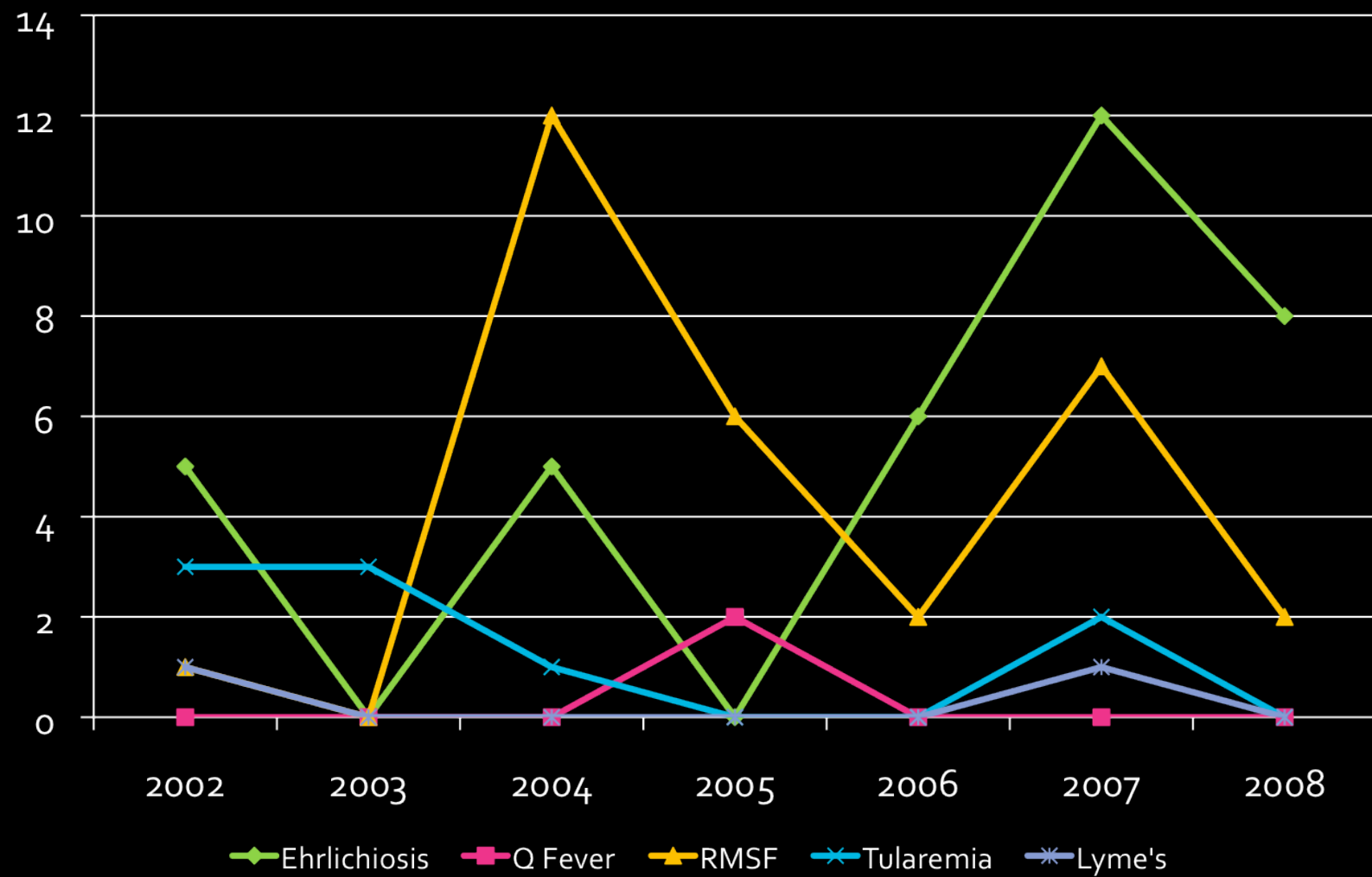


Deer Whistles

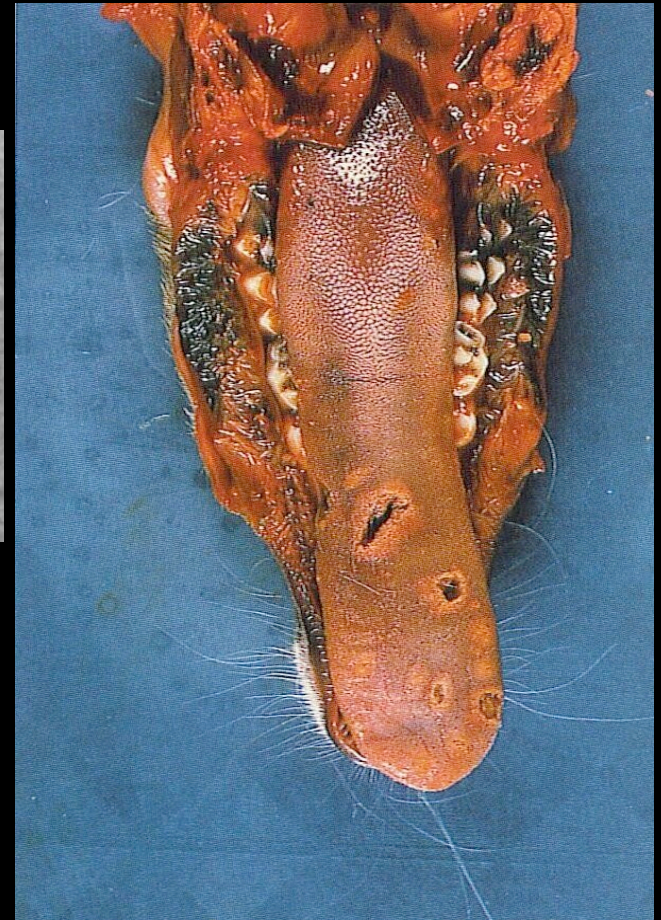
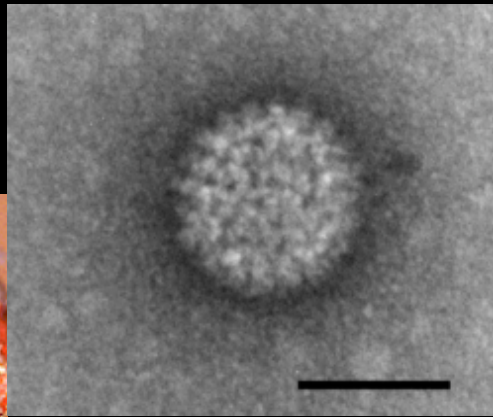
There are a number of auto accessories that claim to warn deer, such as deer whistles. These emit a high-pitched sound designed to frighten deer away from the road. Studies have not proven them to be effective, but I have them on my car and have never hit a deer!







Deer become vulnerable to overpopulation, disease and starvation in the absences of natural predators and hunting. When deer occur in high densities, diseases are transmitted more readily.



Other Damage.....



Landscaping



Agricultural



Ecological




Population Control Options:

- Controlled Hunting (Firearm and Archery)
- Sharp-shooting
- Trapping and Euthanasia
- Trap and Relocation
- Damage Control



What Other Cities Across Missouri Have Done

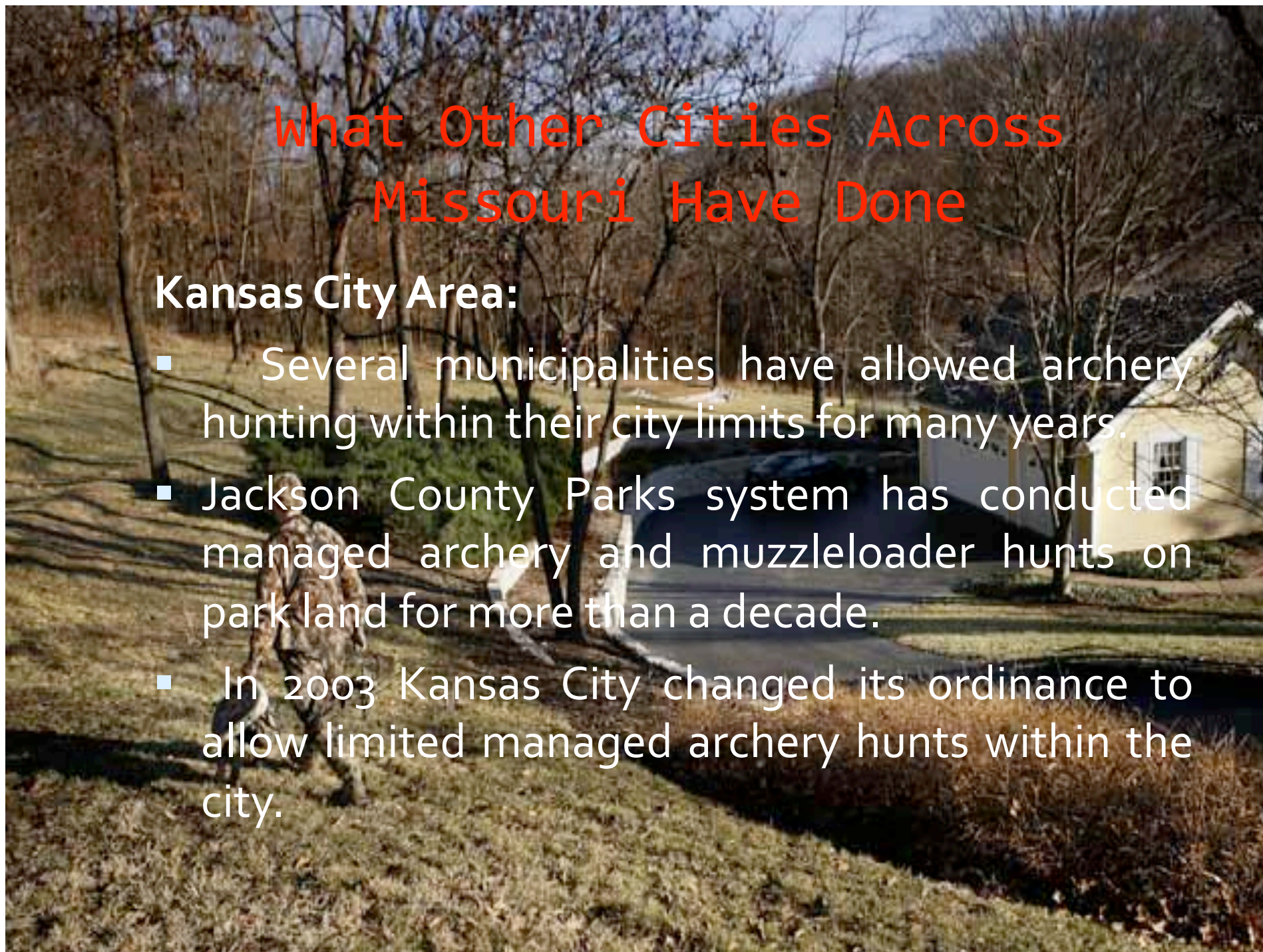
St. Louis Area:

- Clarkson Valley and Chesterfield developed ordinances allowing for archery hunting.
 - Regulations prohibiting “back yard feeding” of deer.
- 

What Other Cities Across Missouri Have Done

Kansas City Area:

- Several municipalities have allowed archery hunting within their city limits for many years.
- Jackson County Parks system has conducted managed archery and muzzleloader hunts on park land for more than a decade.
- In 2003 Kansas City changed its ordinance to allow limited managed archery hunts within the city.



PROPOSED HUNTING GROUNDS

City of Columbia

Highlighted areas indicate proposed grounds for archery hunting during deer season. All the sites are owned by the city.




What Other Cities Across Missouri Have Done

Central Missouri Area:

- Since 2003 Columbia has utilized a pilot program of archery hunting.
- Boonville has used a combination of archery hunting on private land, and sharpshooters on both public and private land.
- In 2005 the city of Fulton passed an ordinance to allow archery hunting on selected private properties.




What has UDAC done?

- Researched control options.
 - Collected public opinion Surveys (included in you report).
 - Held two public hearings.
 - Published findings.
- 




The Public Opinion Survey

- With the public's interest being held in high regard, 2,999 randomly selected households in the Springfield metro areas were chosen to be surveyed. The initial mailing took place on January 11, 2007. Unfortunately, 722 of these addresses were "non-working" so the totals are based off of the 2,277 surveys that were successfully delivered. The survey contained 16 questions (some with additional parts; i.e. 11-A, 11-B, 11-C, etc...) addressing a variety of issues related to urban deer, most of which focused on determining the current cultural carrying capacity of deer in the study area.
- 



Conclusion:

- The issues associated with overpopulation will diminish with humane control methods.
 - Archery hunting is the best all-around and the safest option for controlling deer populations in urban settings.
 - There is an ample supply of hunters that will pay for the opportunity to hunt in “Urban Areas”.
 - Safest option: there are many restraints that can be placed on hunting including (but not limited to): methods allowed and age of participants.
- 




UDAC recommendations:

- Achieve densities of approximately 20 deer per square mile.
- Develop a no feeding ordinances.
- Consider ordinances that allow hunting within their corporate city limits.
- City Utilities, Springfield/Greene County, and Wilson Creek Battlefield consider managed hunts on properties under their control.




The Recommendation

- The UDAC strongly recommends that all municipalities and agencies within the Springfield metro area consider changing ordinances and policies to *allow controlled bow hunting.*
 - This in-turn should help alleviate some of the problems associated with high deer populations.
- 



Hunting


- Hunting is one of the best all-around options for controlling deer populations. There is an ample supply of hunters that will pay for the opportunity to hunt in “Urban Areas”. It is also a safe option as there are many restraints that can be placed on hunting including (but not limited to): methods allowed and age of participants.
- 

Possible Regulations to Consider for a Hunt


- Only does (antler-less deer) harvested.
- Only archery from tree stands allowed by certified Bow Hunters 18 and over.
- Three acre or larger plots (with in city limits).
- Shots Limited to 25 or less yards.
- Keeping harvested deer hidden from public view and field dressing at a different location.
- Ban on backyard feeding of deer.
- Tele-checking deer immediately to monitor harvest numbers.
- Portion / All meat harvested must be donated to food pantry.
- *****Many other possibilities*****



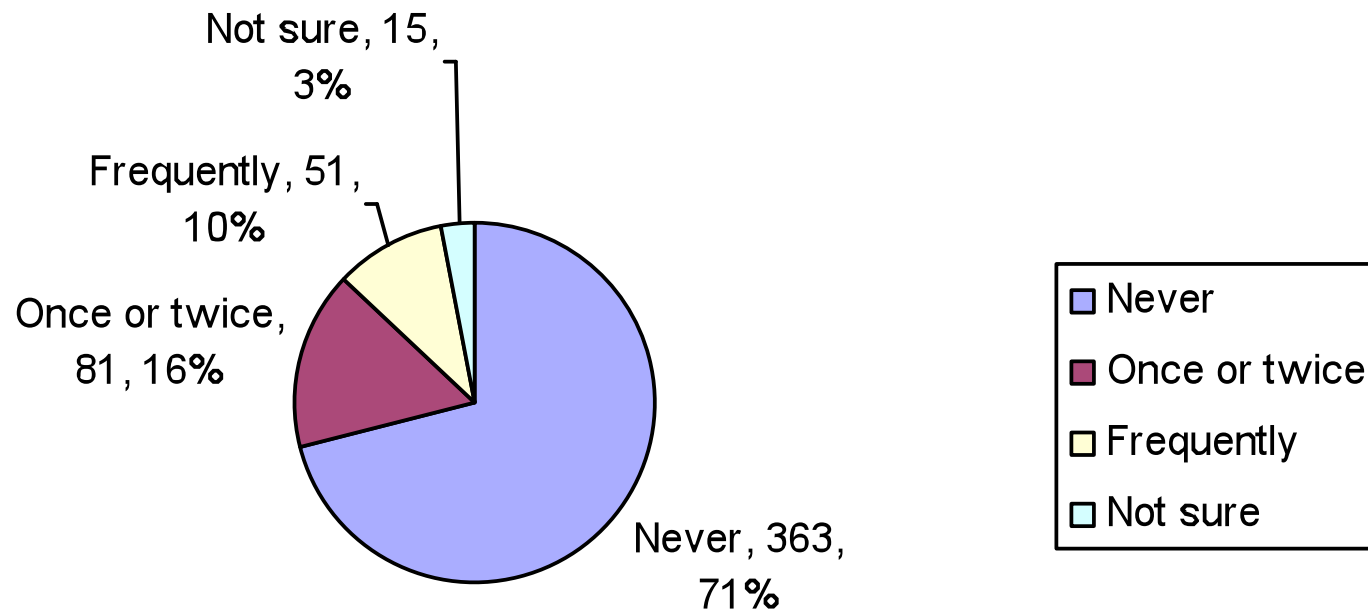
Questions????



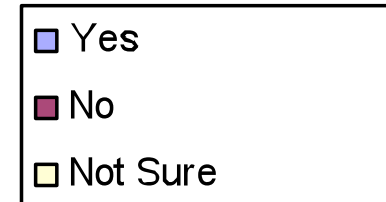
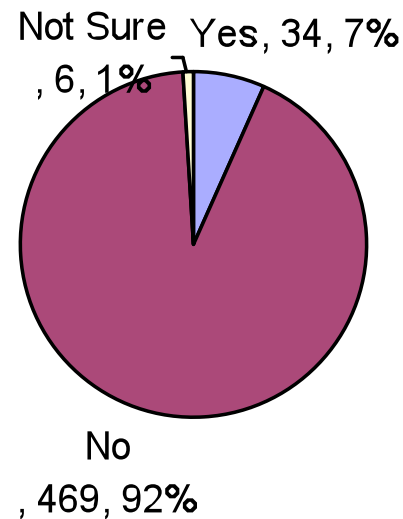
Some of the Questions and Results

- In the past year, how often have you experienced plant or landscape damage from deer on your property?
 - In the past *five* years, have you or has someone in your immediate family been impacted by a tick related illness?
 - In the past *five* years, have you or has someone in your immediate family been a driver or a passenger in a car that has hit a deer in the Greater Springfield Metro Area?
 - In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable is it for your municipality to take each of the following actions concerning the management of the deer population in the Greater Springfield Metro Area? (Options included: controlled hunting, sharp-shooting, trap & euthanasia, and damage control.
- 

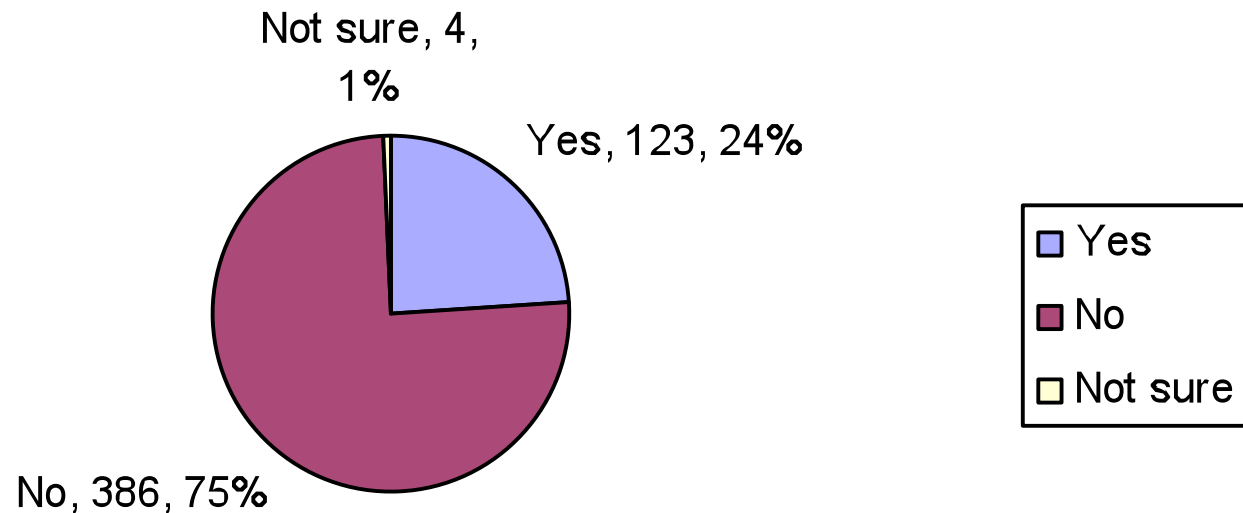
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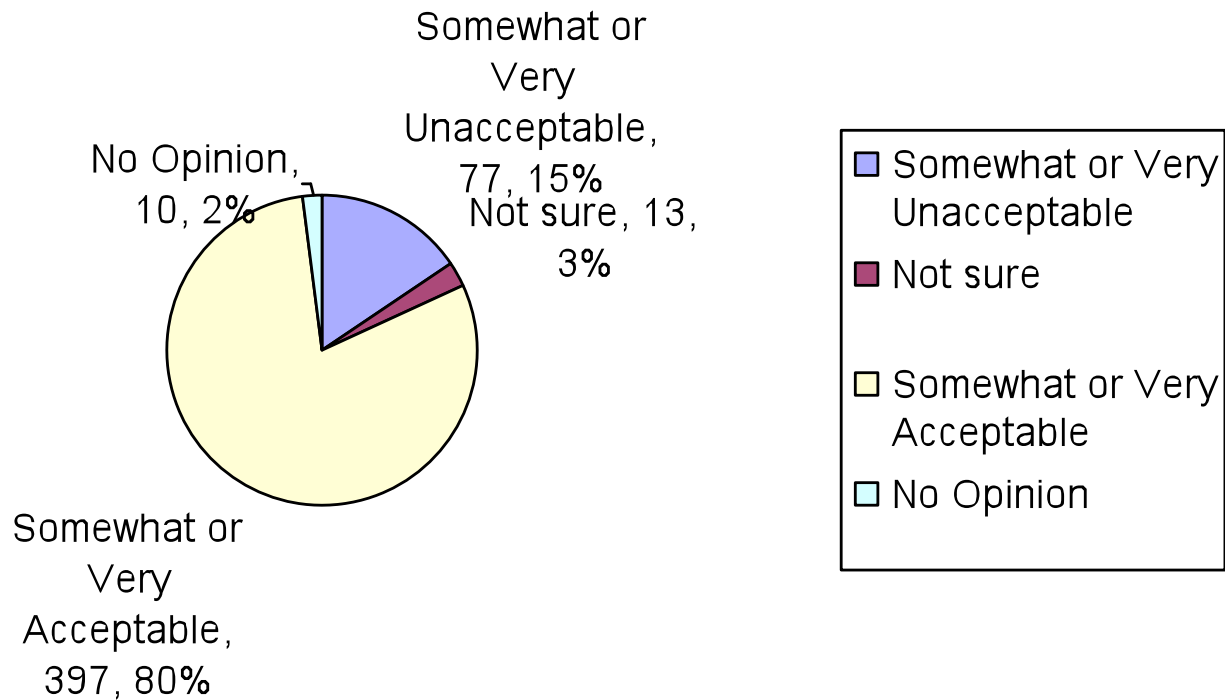
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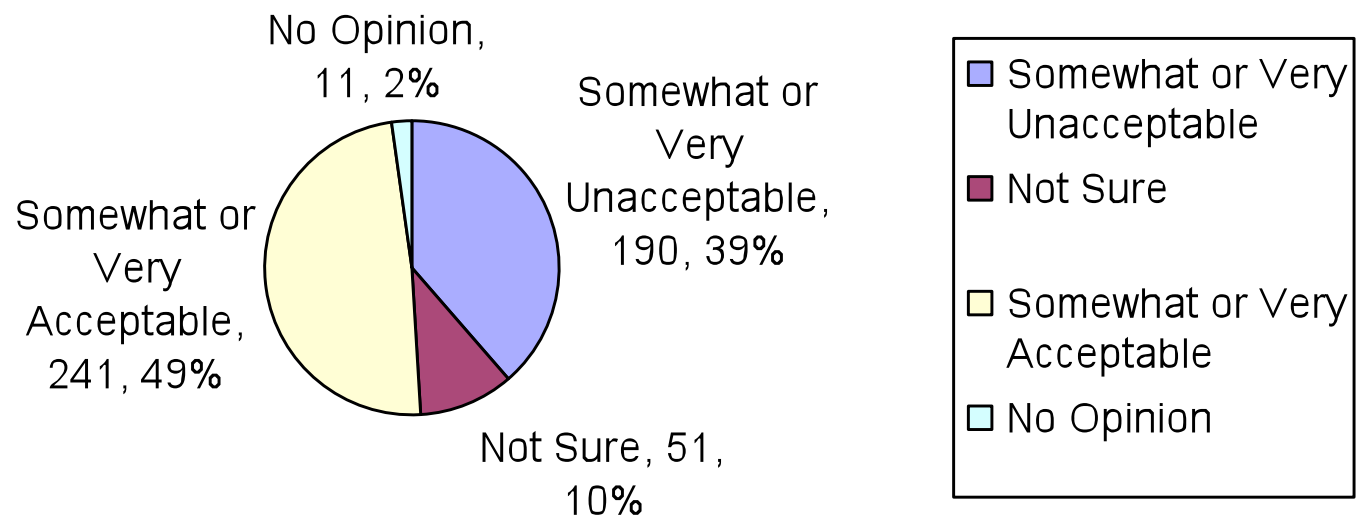
In the past *five* years, have you or has someone in your immediate family been a driver or a passenger in a car that has hit a deer in the Greater Springfield Metro Area?



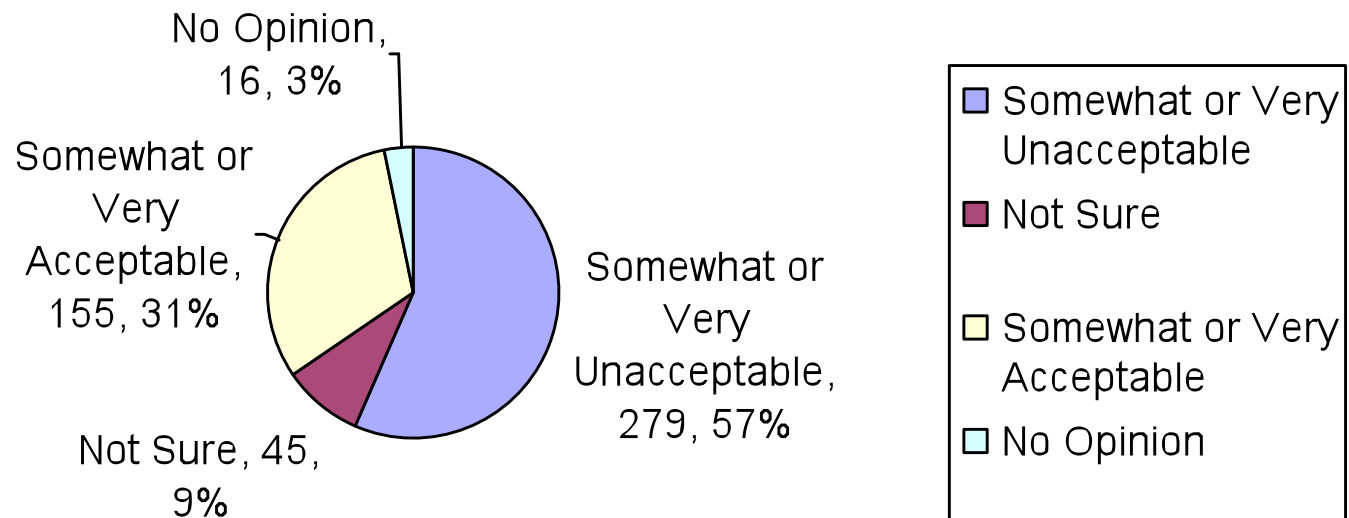
In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable is it for your municipality to use controlled hunting as a deer management tool?



In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable is it for your municipality to use sharp-shooting as a deer management tool?



In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable is it for your municipality to use trap and euthanasia as a deer management tool?



In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable is it for your municipality to use damage control as a deer management tool?

